orrespondence is being deposited with the United I hereby certify that Attorney Docket No.: 15258-176-1US States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Client Ref. No.: P.6623 Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re application of: Examiner: Staicovici, S. Andreas Walder Art Unit: 1732 Application No.: 09/082,309 **AMENDMENT** Filed: May 20, 1998 For: METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF EXPANDABLE PLASTICS GRANULATE **Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231 Sir: In response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2000, please consider the following amendments and remarks. **IN THE CLAIMS:** Please amend claim 16. (Thrice amended) A method, which does not use extruders, for the 16. 1 production of expandable plastics granulate from a plastics melt and a fluid blowing agent that 2 3

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is, when at a pressure within a predetermined pressure range, only partly soluble in the melt, the method comprising the steps of: